



THE DEPOT MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AVON PARK "Your Ticket to the Past"

January, 2023 Edition

HONORING THE MEDAL of HONOR

The Historical Society's Annual Banquet is set for February 21st and will feature the popular Hotel Jacaranda buffet. The keynote speaker will be Denise Williams; her topic is the Medal of Honor—the sacrifice required to earn it and biographical notes on some of the recipients.



The dining room will open 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members and are available at the Hotel Jacaranda and the Avon Park Depot Museum. Board members will be installed during a brief business session prior to the program. Door prizes in the form of gift certificates to local businesses will be awarded

following the keynote address. Join us for an evening of fellowship, good food and an entertaining program.

Banquet Keynote Speaker ❖❖❖ Denise Pollard Williams

A sixth generation, native Floridian, she graduated from Lake Placid High. She entered the US Army at the age of 20 hoping to see the world, and was trained as a diesel mechanic. After almost six years in the Army, MS. Williams felt it was time to close that chapter. Little did she know, that one day, she would return to the service. This time with the Florida National Guard, serving from March 1993-March 1998,

Shown here performing her duties in the role of US Army Reserves-Truck Driver.

Ms. Williams retired from the US Army Reserves in 2022.

Her career of 25 years with the Highlands County Veteran Services has given Ms. Williams the opportunity to assist thousands of veterans with benefits. She counts that as an Honor.



❖ MUSEUM HAPPENINGS ❖

Saturday, January 28th, Museum Avenue is the venue for the Art and Culture Fusion Fest. Craft, Art, and Food vendors will line the street. A variety of musical entertainment will go on all day. Dance performances, therapy dogs, and classic cars are some of the featured attractions.

Fruit cobbler topped with vanilla ice cream will be served up in the dining car. Sloppy Joe sandwiches will also be available while they last.



**SATURDAY
JANUARY 28
10am -- 4pm**

310 W. Main St./ Museum Ave,
Avon Park, FL

**VENDORS, ARTS, CRAFTS
PERFORMERS,
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES,
FOOD**

**Join us in celebrating the
diversity of cultures
in our community.**

Come in your favorite cultural attire.

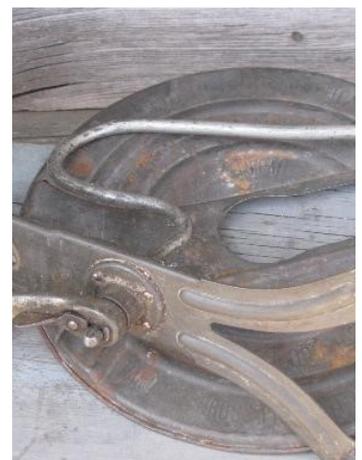


Use QR code for event map and details

If you have been curious about the bread pail in our Brown 'n' Serve Rolls exhibit, you will want to be in the dining car for a demonstration of its use. The demonstration is set for 11 am. The entire process will take about three hours. The dough is mixed in the pail and allowed to rise. It is then turned out onto a floured surface, formed into loaves and/or rolls, and then allowed to rise again. The baking takes only about 35 minutes.



Samples for tasting will be available when the bread comes from the oven. It is possible to make 4 loaves of bread in one batch in the pail. Once all the ingredients are in the pail, it takes about 200 turns of the handle that is connected to the large pastry hook, shown at right, (or about three minutes) for the dough to be mixed.





MUSEUM EXPANSION PROJECT



A lot of history has been made at this important Avon Park landmark. Hall of Famers, Negro League stars, and high school champions have “hit for the fence” and run these bases to the cheers of thousands of baseball fans over the past 100 years. The stories of epic games and records made and broken will be told in exhibits in the addition to the Depot Museum.

BASEBALL MEMORABILIA IS NEEDED This is an opportunity for athletes to share things that help us to tell the story of Baseball in Avon Park. There will be a lot of display space on the walls for photos and posters. Exhibit cases will be designed for artifacts such as uniforms, trophies, gloves, bats, and other such things. Rosters, programs, award certificates and other documents of note can also be displayed.

Items may be donated to be included in our permanent collection or loaned for temporary exhibits. Temporary exhibits are usually mounted for special occasions or centered around a current activity and are usually in place for under 6 months.

We have secure, climate controlled storage space available while exhibits are being designed. Items may be brought to the museum during regular operating hours. It is helpful to have an inventory of memorabilia before our curator begins designing the exhibits so we know what stories can be told. If you have items that you are ready to part with or share, please see us.

Donations of \$50 or more will be recognized on a wall in the new addition. Donations are tax deductible. Donation forms are available at the Museum.

\$75K - Hall of Fame

\$5K to \$9,999K- MVP

\$50K to \$74,999K - World Series

\$1K to \$4,999K- Major League

\$25K to \$49,999K - League Champion

\$500 to \$999- Minor League

\$10K to \$24,999K- All Star

\$50 to \$499- Fan

Donations up to \$75K will be matched by an anonymous donor. We have the opportunity to apply for a \$200K Humanities Grant that requires a one on one match. Your generous donation will help us to meet our goal of \$500K needed for this project.

Make a Valentine

Long before the advent of email, snap chat and Instagram, sending greeting cards was the popular way to remember friends and relatives on special occasions and holidays.

Ancient Chinese exchanged messages on bits of paper expressing good will to celebrate the new year. Early Egyptians sent their messages on papyrus scrolls. The oldest greeting card on display, made in 1400, is in a museum in London.

From Christian martyrs to Chaucer to Shakespeare, Valentine's Day can be traced back to Ancient Rome. One story is that the holiday is named for a St. Valentine who was martyred for marrying persecuted Christians in ancient Rome. But it is the Victorians who made Valentines Day into the holiday we know today. Rather than purchase a ready-made valentine, some Victorians assembled original valentines from materials purchased at a stationer's shop: lace, bits of mirror, bows and ribbons, seashells and seeds, gold and silver foil appliquéés, silk flowers, and then added messages like "Be Mine" and "Constant and True."

Mechanical valentines, also known as sentimental movables, trick valentines, or novel valentines, became popular as people stopped buying the earlier Victorian valentines. Often these mechanicals would have moveable parts and stands.



❖ UP-COMING PROGRAMMING ❖

Our Historical Society is partnering with the Heartland Cultural Alliance and Florida Humanities to present a series of entertaining history based talks. The speakers have been chosen from the Speakers Bureau of Florida Talks, one of Florida Humanities' longest-running programs. The talks will be held in the Avon Park Community Center at 3 pm and are being offered to the community at no charge.

The Fighting Baileys February 26th

During World War II and the Korean War, seven brothers from a black Punta Gorda family served overseas. Yet, the family received no acclaim for over fifty years for their exploits. From a high-flying Tuskegee airman to a grunt in the Red Ball Express, the Bailey brothers' struggles in a Jim Crow south speak to the hidden and ongoing struggle to accord black Americans their place in the military. Talk by James Abraham



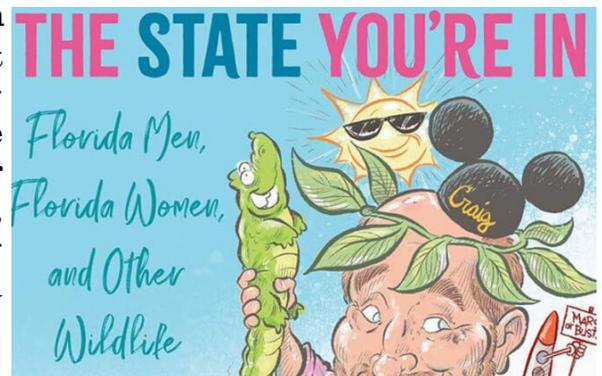
March 26th

Fabulous, Feisty Florida Females:

More Than Orange Blossoms and will be presented by Carrie Sue Ayvar. Though not always in the history books, women have helped build, form, shape, and develop Florida. Stories of strong, courageous women like Julia Tuttle, known as the Mother of Miami, or Mary McCleod Bethune, daughter of enslaved parents who went on to become an advisor to several US presidents, and other brave women have

influenced and impacted their communities, Florida, and the nation.

April 23rd Over the past 30 years, Craig Pittman has written thousands of stories and columns about "The Most Interesting State". Based on 51 of these stories, he shows off the glorious weirdness of his native state. Stories of mermaids, con men, fugitives, gator wrasslers, death row inmates, iguanas, tattooed ladies, python hunters, and more are covered in this illustrated and lively presentation about Florida men, Florida women, and other wildlife.



Thank you to our Corporate members who have renewed their membership for this year.

These businesses support your museum!!

Avon Park Chamber of Commerce

Bagwell Lumber

Bur-Runner Pest Service

C. Elton Crews, Inc.

Forrest Hilton, CPA

GeoDev Financial Services

Hicks Oil Company

Jahna Concrete, Inc

Maxwell Grove Service

Walter Nunnallee

Ridge Florist

Sebring Historical Society

Dr. Ron Sevigny

Sherco, Inc.

Wells Family

Worden Realty



Member donations to the Dining Car Window Repair project are very much appreciated. Thank you to the following:

Bug-Runner Joan Hartt Hicks Oil Jane & Bonnie Day

C. Elton Crews, Inc. Larry & Velma Bond Jane Avery

Ed & Eden Dickerson Caryl Ryan Kathy & Ted Johnson Valedia Sullivan

Glenn & Martha Bimson Ralph & Irene Rensing Thom Jenkins

Connie Reitz Nancy Thomas Jeff & DeeDee Harstine

MieMie Strickler Linda Kolarik Wendell & Martha Williams

SOCIETY BUSINESS

The slate of Board members to be installed at the Annual Banquet and serve going forward is:

Jane Avery Robert Cook Nancy Fisk Roberta Flowers
 Ricky Helms Beth Helms Grace Hudson Judy Laycock
 Kamla Long Eileen Sachsenmaier Ronald "Doc" Sevigny
 Manva Turner

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Please be sure that your membership is current so that you can vote on this slate at the meeting.



Your 2023 Membership Dues is now due .

Please return this form with your check or call the museum to pay by credit card.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____ ZIP _____ E-Mail: _____

Please make checks payable to: The Historical Society of Avon Park

Drop off or mail to: 3 N Museum Ave.
 Avon Park, FL 33825-3153

Annual dues: ____ Individual \$15 ____ Family \$25 ____ Business \$50

Amount Enclosed _____

Historical Society of Avon Park, Inc

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Email: avonparkdepotmuseum@gmail.com

Website: www.avonparkhistoricalsociety.com



BOARD MEMBERS

Nancy Fisk, President

Ricky Helms, Vice President

Beth Helms, Recording Secretary

Jane Avery, Treasurer

Roberta Flowers Grace Hudson

Marva Turner Doc Sevigney

Kamla Long Judy Laycock

Eileen Sachsenmaier Robert Cook



Elaine Levey, Director/Curator

Dave Sanford, Maintenance

Nancy Fisk, Newsletter Editor



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Deborah Crews Nancy Fisk

MUSEUM HOURS

Wednesday-Thursday- Friday

10 am to 3 pm



CALENDAR of EVENTS

January 28 , 2023

Fusion Fest

February 21 , 2023

Annual Banquet

February 26, 2022

The Fighting Baileys

Feb 4, Mar. 4 & Apr. 1

Gardening on the Grounds

8 am to 10 am